

INL, Canadian companies work toward business, research collaborations

Contributed by John Howze, INL Communications & Public Affairs

INL is conducting a first-of-its-kind technology exchange with Canada in a move aimed at strengthening energy security and encouraging economic growth in both Canada and the United States.

Representatives from more than 40 Canadian companies are visiting INL March 29-31 with an express eye to formation of research partnerships and creation of business ventures.

"This meeting is a great opportunity for the new INL and Idaho to form partnerships with Canadian industry, government and laboratories," said INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher.

"Our capabilities and mission at the INL fit very well with the interests and expertise of the Canadian firms and institutions attending," he added. "I look forward to the substantive agreements and collaborative efforts that will result and am pleased that the new INL's first broad international meeting is with our friends and colleagues from Canada."

The discussions will center on five technologies:

- Advanced energy and transportation
- Advanced nuclear energy
- Critical infrastructure
- Environmental solutions
- Unmanned vehicles and robotics

Those realities are confirmed by Jack Lance, INL Technology Partnerships director.

"This really does fit the mission to engage in international partnership and collaboration," Lance said. "Where we've typically been an energy and defense lab, we think this is an opportunity to look at more commercial and industrial activity. To do that, the INL must look toward outside collaboration."



**Beth Sellers, DOE Idaho
Operations manager**



**Karl Tueller, left, Idaho Office of Science and
Technology director, greets Jeffrey Parker, Consulate
General of Canada.**

In addition to INL representatives, key interested parties from throughout the region are participating in the collaborative process. These include government research and development entities; university R&D programs and initiatives; economic development, business and industry S&T organizations; and INL collaborators.

Lance noted that Canada and the United States have common interests and goals that make the partnership work.

Michael Connolly, INL Engineering Technology Division director, sees the two nations' common interests in energy security as crucial. "As we develop more advances in energy systems," says Connolly, "we can start to become less reliant on foreign oil, which is a giant security risk for the country. It's a great time for the community to be involved in the development of the next generation of energy systems."

Jeffrey Parker, Canada's Consulate General, was equally optimistic.

"We're a country that is looking to move ahead in terms of technology," Parker said. "The only way to achieve that is by partnering. This is a terrific opportunity."

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